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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re : Chapter 11

DPH HOLDINGS CORP., et al., Case No. 05-44481 (RDD)

Reorganized Debtors. : (Jointly Administered)

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# RESPONSE OF GIBBS DIE CASTING CORPORATION TO REORGANIZED DETBORS' FORTY-THIRD OMNIBUS CLAIMS OBJECTION

Gibbs Die Casting Corporation ("Gibbs"), by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby files this Response to Reorganized Debtors' Forty-Third Omnibus Objection Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b) and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007 to (I) Expunge Certain Administrative Expense (A) Severance Claims, (B) Books and Records Claims, (C) Duplicate Claims, (D) Equity Interests, (E) Prepetition Claims, (F) Insufficiently Documented Claims, (G) Pension, Benefit, and OPEB Claims, (H) Workers' Compensation Claims, and (I) Transferred Workers' Compensation Claims, (II) Modify and Allow Certain Administrative Expense Severance Claims, and (III) Allow Certain Administrative Expense Severance Claims filed on January 22, 2010 [Docket Entry No. 19356] (the "Forty-Third Omnibus Objection" or the "Objection") and in support hereof, respectfully states as follows:

## **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this Response pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1134.
  - 2. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
  - 3. This matter is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).

# **BACKGROUND**

- 4. On October 8, 2005 (the "Petition Date") each of the Debtors filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq*. (the "Bankruptcy Code").
- 5. After the Petition Date, Gibbs continued to sell and deliver goods and/or services to Delphi Automotive Systems LLC. Pursuant to the Bankruptcy Court's Modification Procedures Order dated June 16, 2009 [Docket No. 17032] (as amended and supplemented by a further order dated June 29, 2009 [Docket No. 17376]) (together, the "Procedures Order"), on July 15, 2009, Gibbs timely filed a proof of administrative claim against Delphi Automotive Systems LLC, in the amount of \$91,999.02 for unpaid goods Gibbs sold and delivered to Delphi Automotive Systems LLC between October 8, 2005 and June 1, 2009, which claim has been designated by the Reorganized Debtors¹ as Claim No. 18997 (the "Claim"). A true and correct copy of the Claim is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth at length.
- 6. The Claim is an administrative priority claim pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(1)(A) and § 507(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code in the amount of \$91,999.02. By the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As defined in the Forty-Third Omnibus Objection.

Claim, Gibbs reserved its rights to supplement and amend the Claim for the purpose of including specific or additional sums as additional post-petition claims.

7. On January 22, 2010, the Reorganized Debtors filed the Forty-Third Omnibus Objection. Pursuant to the Forty-Third Omnibus Objection, the Reorganized Debtors are seeking to expunge and disallow the Claim because the Reorganized Debtors allege it was satisfied in the ordinary course of business.

# **RESPONSE**

- 8. In the Objection, Reorganized Debtors' assert that the Claim should be disallowed and expunged because the Claim "assert[s] liabilities and dollar amounts that are not reflected on the Reorganized Debtors' books and records ... because [the Claim has] been satisfied in the ordinary course of business." *See* Objection at ¶ 9 and at Exhibit B to Objection at page 24. To the extent the Objection seeks to disallow and expunge the Claim, it should be overruled.
- 9. Rule 3001(f) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure provides that "[a] proof of claim executed and field in accordance with these rules shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of the validity and the amount of the claim." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3001(f). As the objecting party, the Reorganized Debtors have the burden of overcoming that *prima facie* presumption. *See Carey v. Ernst*, 333 B.R. 666, 672 (S.D.N.Y. 2005) ("To overcome this *prima facie* evidence, the objecting party must come forth with evidence which, if believed, would refute at least one of the allegations essential to the claim.") (quoting *In re Reilly*, 245 B.R. 768, 773 (B.A.P. 2d. Cir. 2000)).
- 10. Here, the Reorganized Debtors have not met their burden. Rather, the Reorganized Debtors assert a blanket objection claiming that the Claim "assert[s] liabilities and dollar amounts that are not reflected on the Reorganized Debtors' books and records" without

providing any supporting evidence. See Objection at  $\P$  9. Reorganized Debtors do not provide any evidence that refutes at least one allegation essential to the Claim. Therefore, the Objection should be overruled.

- 11. Reorganized Debtors also have not provided any legal or factual bases to overcome the presumption of validity of the Claim. Rather, Reorganized Debtors only assert that "the burden is on the claimant asserting an Administrative Claim to prove by a preponderance of evidence that the allowance of the Administrative Claim is justified." *See* Objection ¶ 9 (citing *Solow v. American Airlines* (*In re Midway Airlines*), 221 B.R. 411, 446 (Bankr. N.D. III. 1998)).
- 12. The two-pronged test for determining whether a claim is entitled to administrative status is: (1) the transaction giving rise to the claim must have arisen as a result of a transaction between the creditor and the debtor's estate, and (2) the transaction must have conferred upon the debtor's estate a benefit in the operation of its post-petition business. *See In re Midway Airlines*, 221 B.R. at 449.
- 13. Here, Gibbs has satisfied the two-pronged test. The transactions giving rise to the Claim arose from the post-petition sale of goods and/or services to Delphi Automotive Systems LLC that conferred a benefit upon the Reorganized Debtors' estate in the operation of the Reorganized Debtors' post-petition business.
- 14. Gibbs acknowledges that it has received some payments in the ordinary course of business on the Claim, thereby reducing the amount of the Claim. As of February 11, 2010, the balance due and owing on the Claim was not less than \$29,625.12. Attached hereto and

incorporated herein as <u>Exhibit B</u> are redacted<sup>2</sup> copies of the outstanding invoices and bills of lading evidencing this amount.

- 15. Gibbs has proven that the Claim is entitled to administrative status by more than a preponderance of the evidence through the outstanding invoices that comprise the Claim. *See* Exhibit B.
- 16. Because the Reorganized Debtors' have not provided specific evidence to support their Objection to the Claim, Gibbs is unable to respond specifically to any purported discrepancies in the Reorganized Debtors' books and records.

#### **CONCLUSION**

- 17. Gibbs is filing this Response to the Objection so as to preserve its rights thereunder, and requests that the Court allow its Claim. As of February 11, 2010, Gibbs will agree to reduce the Claim from \$91,999.02 to \$29,625.12. However, unless and until Reorganized Debtors provide evidence of the basis for their objections<sup>3</sup>, the Reorganized Debtors cannot overcome the *prima facie* presumption of the validity of the Claim and the Reorganized Debtors have shown no basis for disallowance of the Claim. Therefore, the Claim should be allowed in the amount of not less than \$29,625.12.
- 18. Gibbs reserves its rights to object to any further objections to the Claim as well as to object to any other filing affecting its rights and/or claims. Gibbs further reserves the right to amend or supplement this Response, to amend the Claim and to seek payment of any amounts owed after June 1, 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Certain confidential and proprietary information has been redacted from the Exhibits attached hereto.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> When and if Reorganized Debtors provide evidence for the basis of their objection, Gibbs reserves the right and opportunity to respond to any such evidence.

19. The case law cited herein in support of this Response satisfies the requirements of Rule 9013-1(a) of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Southern District of New York.

Dated: February 17, 2010 Indianapolis, Indiana

## **BARNES & THORNBURG LLP**

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